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SECURITY SUPPORT DIVISION  
HISTORY 1953-56

The years 1953-56 were critical ones from the standpoint of an increased challenge to SSD in terms of new responsibilities and additional work requirements. Highlights of the period were overall management revisions designed to cope with the new challenge and revisions in the general area of operational procedures and organization.

Procedures and Administration

The SSD Agents Manual, published in November 1953, and the SSD Headquarters Manual, published in April 1954, represented major administrative milestones, in that for the first time, procedures utilized throughout the Division were codified and defined.

In December 1954, a major reorganization was effected. The Special Security Division was redesignated the Security Support Division and placed under the direction of the Deputy Director of Security for Investigations and Support. Previously, all investigations at the working level were supervised by a single branch. To handle the expanded activities, three branches were created: the Investigations Branch, responsible for investigations and clearances; the Support Branch, responsible for providing operational and cover support; and the Correspondents and Records Branch, responsible for the administration of the covert files and the Confidential Correspondents (contract investigators).

In October 1956, the Investigations Branch adopted the concept of geographical, rather than functional, responsibility. The various desks were realigned geographically to serve the area divisions of DDP and other Agency components.

During the 1953-56 period, adjustments were made in the territorial jurisdictions [REDACTED] and a comprehensive study of the Resident Agencies was conducted in order to provide more efficient coverage of those areas with increased workloads.

Clandestine Services [REDACTED] implemented in the early part of 1955, was another milestone in that it defined the responsibilities of the operating components and the Office of Security regarding covert clearances and refined the mechanics of the clearance procedure, creating an overall increase in general efficiency.

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During this period, emphasis on the screening, procurement and utilization of Confidential Correspondents (contract investigators) was stepped up to the point where their number and effectiveness was such that they could provide temporary additional investigative strength during heavy workload periods without necessitating any increase in T/O.

### Operational Support

Requests by all components of the Agency for operational support increased tremendously during the 1953-56 period.

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[REDACTED]

In 1954, the Security Support Division was called upon to provide security planning and personnel for a highly sensitive project, then known as AQUATONE. This function included the recruitment and training in security techniques of a large number of personnel, in addition to the processing of an extremely high volume of clearance requests and miscellaneous support requirements.

Also in 1954, the Security Office devoted a large proportion of its time and assets to a highly sensitive Agency project, PBSUCCESS. This included the provision of escort agents for the air movement of sensitive materials and other investigative and support functions.

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The escort and courier program of SSD tripled during the 1953-56 period. An increasing number of custodial cases, including the handling of important [REDACTED] were conducted by the Division.

The Cover Support Desk of the Support Branch, which evolved during the 1953-56 period, began as a pioneer effort to provide support to the overall cover plans for personnel and activities of the Agency. It furnishes support in the cover field to Central Cover Division through utilization of SSD investigative and support facilities.

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COVERT CASES IN PROCESS

As of:

31 December 1953 - 1186

31 December 1954 - 1363

31 December 1955 - 2422

31 December 1956 - 3703

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